

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of Thursday, June 17, 2004. During the interview the undersigned expressed his understanding that the Guck reference cited by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest the invention recited in the pending claims. In particular, and with reference to representative claim 7, the Guck reference fails to disclose or suggest a system wherein a conversion service is part of a primary program, such as a main application program, and schemas defining object formats are contained in one or more secondary programs, such as plugins, wherein the conversion service reformats objects according to the schemas from the secondary program. In contrast, the Guck merely discloses a system in which a database program includes dedicated converters that are hard-coded to perform fixed, predetermined conversions. (*See Guck, col. 17, lines 20-24: “[E]ach shadow file in the database has its own personal converter . . . which is available for transforming the original document . . . from its original format into any one of a number of other desired formats;” and Guck, col. 8, lines 23-24: “each shadow file has a dedicated converter C.”*) As for the Applicants’ reference in their Background section to “conversion procedures [that] rely on format numbers appended to each block of persistent data,” that is not an admission of prior art and, even if it were, it in no way suggests that others skilled in the art knew that schemas could or should be used in connection with format numbers and secondary programs in a manner embraced by the amended claims.

The undersigned and the Examiner also discussed the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2. While the undersigned believed that the originally presented claim language is clear and definite, the undersigned agreed to simplify the claim language defining the relationship between with the first representation of the persistent object, the format indicators, and the schemas. The foregoing amendments are believed to fully address the Examiner’s rejections under §112,¶2.

Applicants hereby specifically reserve the right to prosecute claims of different or broader scope in a continuation or divisional application. The Examiner should infer no (i) adoption of a position with respect to patentability, (ii) change in the Applicants’ position with

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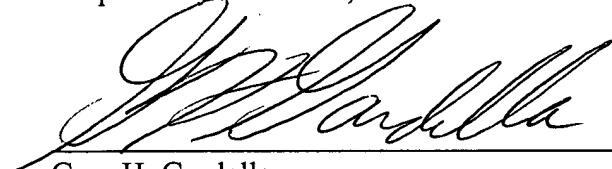
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respect to any claim or subject matter of the invention, or (iii) acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner, based on such amendments.

Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Enclosed is a check for \$950 for the Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time fee. Please apply any deficiencies or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/23/04



Greg H. Gardella
Reg. No. 46,045

Fish & Richardson P.C., P.A.
60 South Sixth Street
Suite 3300
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 335-5070
Facsimile: (612) 288-9696